



U.S. Department of Justice

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MASSACHUSETTS MEN CHARGED WITH BANK ROBBERY

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Field Office Kenneth W. Kaiser, Hollis Police Chief Richard Darling, and New Hampshire State Police Colonel Frederick H. Booth, today announced that Lee Wendell and Louis Difazio, both of Massachusetts, were charged in a criminal complaint issued by the United States District Court with the April 27, 2005 robbery of the Bank of America in Hollis, New Hampshire. Wendell was charged with aiding and abetting the robbery and Difazio was charged with committing the robbery.

Wendell and Difazio were arrested on Thursday, May 5, 2005 in Shirley, Massachusetts. Wendell was arraigned on May 5, 2004, in the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire. A detention hearing in Wendell's case is scheduled for Monday, May 9, 2005 and a preliminary examination is scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2005 at the United States District Court. Difazio will be arraigned in New Hampshire after he appears before a federal judge in Massachusetts. No trial date has been set.

The penalty for bank robbery is a sentence of up to 20 years. The United States Sentencing Guidelines generally provide for a sentence that is less than the 20 year maximum.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hollis Police Department, and the New Hampshire State Police, participated in the investigation of this case. U.S. Attorney Colantuono expressed his appreciation for the cooperative effort by these agencies in locating and capturing the defendants. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Don Feith.

A complaint is merely a way of charging an individual with a crime. All persons are presumed innocent of any charge against them until the government proves guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.